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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Gun activist takes aim at U.S. regulatory power

MISSOULA, Montana - For years, Gary Marbut argued that a wide range of federal laws, not just gun regulations, should be invalid because they were based on an erroneous interpretation of Congress's constitutional power to regulate interstate commerce. In his corner were a handful of conservative lawyers and academics. Now, with the rise of the tea-party movement, the self-employed shooting-range supplier finds himself leading a movement.

Eight states have adopted his Firearms Freedom Act, which Marbut conceived as a vehicle to undermine federal authority over commerce.

Ten state attorneys general, dozens of elected officials and an array of conservative groups are backing his legal challenge to get the constitutional theory before the Supreme Court. A federal appeals court in San Francisco is now considering his case.

Marbut isn't basing his pro-gun effort on the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, but on the 10th, which discusses the limits of federal power.

"This is really about states' rights and federal power rather than gun control," Marbut says. There is "an emerging awareness by the people of America that the federal government has gone too far," he maintains, "and it's dependent on a really weird interpretation." He is talking about the 1942 Supreme Court case of *Wickard v. Filburn*, which looms for him the way the *Dred Scott* decision denying rights to blacks did to abolitionists.

The narrow question in 1942 was whether the federal government could regulate wheat a farmer grew for use on his own farm. But the constitutional issue concerned how far

Congress's authority to oversee interstate commerce stretched.

The court ruled Congress could regulate almost any activity that might interfere with national policy. That set the legal basis for a panoply of federal laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Controlled Substances Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Consumer Product Safety Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Congress drew on its commerce power to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregated hotels, restaurants and theaters because these could serve "interstate travelers" or sell food that crossed state lines.

The ruling is also at the center of a challenge to part of last year's health-care overhaul, requiring most Americans to carry insurance. In June, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati cited the *Wickard* case in upholding that.

Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who filed a brief representing 10 states in support of Marbut's case, says it will be tough to get the *Wickard* decision overturned outright.

But he believes today's Supreme Court could be persuaded to narrow Congress's commerce-regulation authority.

Marbut wants the court to declare that the *Wickard* case "was wrongly decided, and the whole trail of cases that rely on it were wrongly decided."

Mark Meckler, national coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots, says Marbut has engineered "a wonderful legal approach to doing" what he considers "the fundamental issue of our time...putting government back in the box."

Marbut says he doesn't belong to a tea-party group, though "I get along with them, philosophically."

The Montana Firearms Freedom Act, which he drafted, declares that guns made in Montana, stamped "Made in Montana" and staying in-state aren't subject to federal regulations.

After the state enacted it, he announced plans to manufacture the Buckaroo, a miniature rifle that is based on an 1899 Winchester model and intended for children between ages five and 10. Orders, at \$200 apiece, poured in.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives wrote to Marbut saying: "Federal law supersedes the [Montana Firearms Freedom] Act, and all provisions of the Gun Control Act and the National Firearms Act" remain in force."

Marbut went to court. The "Constitution confers no power on Congress to regulate the special rights and activities contemplated by the MFFA," his petition argued, while the Ninth and 10th Amendments assign "all regulatory authority of all such activities within Montana's political borders" to "the sole discretion of the State of Montana."

The *Wickard* case involved a 1938 law that sought to keep farmers from going bankrupt [by keeping prices artificially high, to the detriment of consumers: Ed.]. If the size of a year's wheat crop was projected to exceed the norm by 35%, the Agriculture Department could prop prices by setting a cap on wheat acreage. A farmer who ignored it had to surrender his excess production or pay a penalty.

Ohio farmer Roscoe Filburn, who planted double his allotted 11.1 acres, planned to use the excess wheat himself, arguing that it fell beyond

federal regulation by never entering the stream of commerce.

The Supreme Court disagreed, in a unanimous opinion by Justice Robert Jackson.

He invoked an 1824 case in which Chief Justice John Marshall said federal interstate-commerce power doesn't stop at state boundaries but reaches any activity that "may affect other States." Thus, even local, noncommercial activity "may still...be reached by Congress if it exerts a substantial economic effect on interstate commerce," he wrote.

The idea was that every bushel Filburn grew was one less he needed to buy, reducing demand; if every farmer did the same, the price pressure would be "far from trivial," the court said.

Coming at the end of a string of similar rulings, the decision wasn't controversial at the time, says Jackson scholar John Barrett, a law professor at St. John's University. It was seen as reflecting the framers intent to create a powerful federal government.

Some conservatives never accepted the reasoning; the 1988 Reagan Justice Department said it stretched "the power of Congress to regulate pursuant to the Commerce Clause to the breaking point."

A 2005 suit contended the commerce power shouldn't permit federal authorities to prosecute someone for growing marijuana if his state's law let him do so for personal medical use. Invoking the Wickard reasoning, the Supreme Court held otherwise, 6-3.

On his website, Marbut posted a seven-step plan for attacking the federal commerce power, centering on passage of Firearms Freedom Acts. Introduced in more than 20 states, nine legislatures passed them. Only one governor vetoed the bill, Democrat Brad Henry of Oklahoma.

Following a strategy pioneered by Thurgood Marshall and the civil-rights movement, Marbut rounded up allies to file friend-of-the-court briefs. In addition to gun groups, conservative advocacy organizations such as the Goldwater Institute filed briefs backing the court challenge

Where farmer Filburn claimed his wheat was beyond congressional regulation because he didn't seek to market it, Marbut says Congress lacks authority over products even when they're sold, if not sold over state lines.

He lost the first round. Federal District Judge Donald Molloy wrote that

the Montana legislature was free "to riddle the statutory code with 'political statements'" but not to invent its own constitutional law.

Marbut expects to fall short at the appeals court, as well. If he gets to the Supreme Court and loses there, he is readying a Plan B. He calls it "Sheriffs First," a bill that would authorize Montana sheriffs to arrest federal lawmen who enter their counties without permission.

-- Jess Bravin <http://online.wsj.com> July 14, 2011

Future of war: robot armies will fight it out

The development of deadly hardware and software is leading to a democratization of war tech, which could soon mean that every army — private or national — has battalions of automated soldiers at their command. Since the Predator drone's 2002 debut prices have fallen to the point where Make magazine recently carried instructions on how to launch your own satellite for \$8,000.

"You have high school kids competing in robotics competitions with equipment that 10 years ago would have been considered military-grade," says Peter W. Singer, author of "Wired for War" and a senior fellow at Brookings, who predicts robots on the battlefield will be a "revolution in military affairs." If robots are simply computers with wings (and missiles), then expect to see future wars fought by the descendants of flash-trading algorithms, with humans as anxious bystanders.

Since the Predator first appeared, the Pentagon's inventory of drones has risen to more than 7,000. One reason for the ballooning arms race between anywhere from 44 to 70 nations is because the Pentagon has refused to share its toys, instituting tight export controls on drones such as the Predator or Reaper, both of which are made by General Atomics.

Another is purely financial. An F-22 stealth fighter costs \$150 million, roughly 15 times a top-of-the-line Predator.

Small nations stand to gain the most from embracing robotic warfare. "You don't need a big military infrastructure to use it, or even to build it. This is more akin to the open source movement in software. You're flattening the battlespace, and the barriers to entry for other actors is falling," says Singer.

In 2004, French troops arrived in Cote d'Ivoire to help police a cease-

fire in the country's simmering civil war. Not expecting trouble, they left their air defenses at home. But on Nov. 4, 2004, a pair of Israeli-made Aerostar drones circled their base, reconnoitering targets for the Russian-made jets that bombed them a few hours later, killing nine soldiers and a U.S. aid worker. The drones belonged to an Israeli private military firm hired by Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo, who claimed (unconvincingly) that the whole thing was an accident.

Today, college students using Kickstarter could build a drone using Arduino modules developed by hobbyist sites such as DIY Drones. "We've come to a point where you put together a parallel system to the U.S. Department of Defense," says consultant and futurist Scott Smith. In fact the DoD is soliciting the hobbyists themselves to be the next generation of weapon designers via DARPA's crowdsourcing effort, UAVForge.

"The era of large scale, run-and-gun DIY micro-warfare is just around the corner," Smith concludes. -- www.msnbc.msn.com, updated Aug. 6, 2011

Oath Keepers Exclusive: FBI Denver Joint Terrorism Task Force

handout being distributed to Colorado military surplus store owners lists the purchase of popular preparedness items and firearms accessories as "suspicious" and "potential indicators of terrorist activities," instructing store owners to keep records on and report people who make bulk purchase of items to include:

- *Weatherproofed ammunition or match containers
- *Meals Ready to Eat
- *Night Vision Devices; night flashlights; gas masks
- *High capacity magazines
- *Bi-pods or tri-pods for rifles

The FBI handout, entitled "Communities Against Terrorism: Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Military Surplus Stores" also instructs surplus store owners to require

- *Valid ID from all new customers.
- *Keep records of purchases.
- *Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- *Watch for people and actions that are out of place
- *Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.

It warns, "If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. — Mark Twain

authorities.”

The handout also instructs surplus store owners to consider as “suspicious” anyone who “demands identity ‘privacy’” or anyone who expresses “extreme religious statements” and those who “make suspicious comments regarding anti-US, [or] radical theology.”

The flyer states: “Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, **you** can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The **partnership between the community and law enforcement** is essential to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.”

The handout encourages surplus store owners and employees to provide information on “suspicious” customers by calling the Denver Joint Terrorism Task Force or the Colorado Information Analysis Center.

The small print at the bottom of the FBI flyer declares: This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-MU-BX-K20o2 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Each indicator above, is by itself, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

This handout is very nearly identical to one issued by the FBI to gun stores from Connecticut to Utah. Anyone who has seen such a handout, or who has a copy of one, please contact us at tips@oathkeepers.org. It may be a potential indicator of government terrorist (tyranny and chilling of speech) activities. Remember, combating tyranny is a community effort and **you** can make a difference. – Oath Keepers

Note from Stewart Rhodes, Founder of Oath Keepers:

This absurd list sounds like it was compiled by someone at the Southern Poverty Law Center. And it may well have been. As Oath Keepers exposed in October of 2010, the CEO of Southern Poverty Law Center now sits on the DHS “Working Group on Countering Violent Extremism,” which is tasked with designing training initiatives that reach right down to the local community level (as in “communities against terrorism”), to include training local police, social workers, teachers, “child protective services” personnel, and mental health professionals on how to use their power and influence to “counter violent extremism.”

I don’t have to tell you who SPLC likes to label “extremist.” You already know. Just look in the mirror. If you dare to quote the Founding Fathers,

if you still believe in the self-evident truths and principles of liberty espoused in the Declaration of Independence, if you advocate strict obedience of the Constitution, if you dare to take your oath seriously, and encourage others to do likewise, you are a radical “extremist” according to the SPLC and their “Hate Watch” website, and they will lump you in with neo-Nazis, skinheads, cop-killers and terrorists. And likewise if you support Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, or Michelle Bachmann, or if you watch Judge Andrew Napolitano’s Freedom Watch show or like Glenn Beck, since all of them are considered “enablers” of extremism by the SPLC.

And of course, Oath Keepers has been a target of their smear campaigns from the day of its founding. I consider it a badge of honor. You know you’re over the target when Mark Potok starts screeching about you on national TV. -- oathkeepers.org/oath/2011/08/10

Ron Paul exposes media bias

For the last few days, the American media and political classes have been debating the fallout from the Ames straw poll: the Iowa ritual that marks the first real hurdle in the Republican nomination race. There was much to say. Michele Bachmann won, cementing her as the Iowa frontrunner. Tim Pawlenty came third and instantly pulled out. Herman Cain’s fifth place burst his bubble. Rick Santorum’s fourth place gave him a lift. Even some who were not taking part – such as Sarah Palin – were endlessly analysed.

But what of Ron Paul, who came second? The Texan congressman, outspoken libertarian and Tea Party idol got a mere 152 votes fewer than Bachmann [nine-tenths of one percentage point, out of 16,892 cast.]

Where was the analysis of his campaign chances or – better still – a debate over his policy positions.

As usual, Paul was mostly ignored. The Washington Times declared him a “loser” even as it said Santorum, with 3,014 fewer votes than Paul, was a “winner”. The blanketing given to Paul was best summed up by Jon Stewart of the Daily Show, who showed news anchors and analysts laughing at Paul and treating him like a geek in high school being teased by jocks.

If Paul had got an extra 153 votes and actually won, I bet the analysis would have stayed the same. Paul would have been dismissed as a “no hoper” and Bachmann’s second place would still have been hailed as the

real breakthrough. Politico summed up the reaction best in a rare piece outlining its unfairness. But even it could not resist a dig at Paul’s opinions. “I do not fully understand Ron Paul and his beliefs,” wrote columnist Roger Simon, but then he added: “But I do understand when a guy gets shafted and Ron Paul just got shafted.”

-- Paul Harris, www.guardian.co.uk 16 August 2011

Ed.: the media dismissed not only Ron Paul but the thousands of people who voted for him.

An Open Letter to All Urban Residents – And Especially Jews

By Rabbi Dovid Bendory, Rabbinic Director, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership

The mainstream media is doing its best to belittle a dangerous trend in America today: the “flash mob” of “youths”. The term “flash mob” originally referred to groups of peaceful citizenry who gathered for what are best called “social experiments” – jovial sing-alongs and dance-alongs and other forms of harmless improvisational theater. I was personally caught up by several such “flash mobs” in New York City – and smiled at the entertaining street theater

Times have changed rapidly, and ominously so.

In Wisconsin “Witnesses” accounts claim everything from dozens to hundreds of young black people beating white people as they left State Fair Thursday night.” (WTMJ News).

In Philadelphia, the “mayor talks tough to black teenagers after ‘flash mobs’ ... attack people at random on the streets of the city’s tourist and fashionable shopping districts.” (Washington Times).

“In Chicago on Memorial Day weekend, roving teens flashed gang signs, knocked cyclists off their bikes and harassed picnickers.” (Washington Times)

We’ve seen similar events in Peoria, IL; Atlanta, GA; Las Vegas, NV; and – close to home for me personally – South Orange, NJ.

And while you won’t see it in the MSM, you can find plenty of blogs that highlight the racial undertones – and overtones – of these flash mobs. A Peoria eye-witness says the mob chanted “kill all the white people.”

As most decent people are watching the stock market gyrations and following our federal government’s mismanagement of both monetary and fiscal policy, our nation is entering an unpredictable phase. I’m sorry to say

that, based on history, things are going to get worse. Just look at London, England, where four nights of rioting hooligans have resulted in the deployment of an extra 16,000 police officers in an attempt to stop the looting, vandalism, destruction, assaults, and robbery.

My response to "flash mobs"?

GET A GUN.

Get a gun, and learn how to shoot it accurately, under pressure. If you find yourself in a "flash mob," the police will NOT show up in time to do you a bit of good. These mobs gather in minutes and disburse just as quickly when the first police car arrives. Or worse, they attack the first police officers until backup arrives.

One righteous person in Milwaukee, licensed to carry concealed, stepping out of his or her car and shooting one of the "youths" as they were beating the teen victim would have stopped that "flash mob" instantly. This would also have been a legal shooting, as it was done to save an innocent life.

-- <http://jpfo.org/rabbi/rabbi-flash-mobs>, August 11, 2011

The Fed Audit

The first top-to-bottom audit of the Federal Reserve uncovered eye-popping new details about how the U.S. provided a whopping \$16 trillion in secret loans to bail out American and foreign banks and businesses during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. An amendment by Sen. Bernie Sanders to the Wall Street reform law passed one year ago this week directed the Government Accounting Office to conduct the study. "As a result of this audit, we now know that the Federal Reserve provided more than \$16 trillion in total financial assistance to some of the largest financial institutions and corporations in the United States and throughout the world," said Sanders. "This is a clear case of socialism for the rich and rugged, you're-on-your-own individualism for everyone else."

Among the investigation's key findings is that the Fed unilaterally provided trillions of dollars in financial assistance to foreign banks and corporations from South Korea to Scotland, according to the GAO report. "No agency of the United States government should be allowed to bailout a foreign bank or corporation without the direct approval of Congress and the president," Sanders said.

The non-partisan, investigative arm of Congress also determined that the Fed lacks a comprehensive system

to deal with conflicts of interest, despite the serious potential for abuse. In fact, according to the report, the Fed provided conflict of interest waivers to employees and private contractors so they could keep investments in the same financial institutions and corporations that were given emergency loans.

For example, the CEO of JP Morgan Chase served on the New York Fed's board of directors at the same time that his bank received more than \$390 billion in financial assistance from the Fed. Moreover, JP Morgan Chase served as one of the clearing banks for the Fed's emergency lending programs....

To Sanders, the conclusion is simple. "No one who works for a firm receiving direct financial assistance from the Fed should be allowed to sit on the Fed's board of directors or be employed by the Fed," he said.

-- <http://sanders.senate.gov> July 21, 2011

Signs of the times

My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

When the bank returned a check for "Insufficient Funds" I asked if they meant me or them.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

A picture is now only worth 200 words.

When Bill and Hillary travel together they have to share a room.

Congress is looking into the Bernard Madoff scam. Great. The guy who made \$50 Billion disappear is being investigated by the people who made \$1.5 Trillion disappear.

I was so depressed I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Pakistan; they asked if I could drive a truck.

The Stimulation of Murder

The ATF's gun-running disaster was funded in the stimulus bill. Think about all the criminal and drug cartel jobs saved or created. And our attorney general once bragged to a Mexican audience about implementing it.

This could be, no pun intended, the proverbial smoking gun in a growing administration scandal that deserves as much mainstream media attention as Iran-Contra or Watergate.

Right there in the stimulus bill that no one in Congress bothered to read is \$10 million for Project Gunrunner (aka Operation Fast and Furious), which

resulted in the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry and increased drug cartel violence.

Right there is a provision for \$40 million for "state and local law enforcement assistance" along our border with Mexico and in high drug-trafficking areas, "of which \$10 million shall be transferred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, salaries and expenses for the ATF Project Gunrunner."

Attorney General Eric Holder's "I know nothing" imitation of TV's Sgt. Schultz has evaporated with the discovery of an April 2, 2009, speech to authorities in Cuernavaca, Mexico, in which he took Gunrunner credit for himself and the rest of the Obama administration.

Holder told the audience: "Last week, our administration launched a major new effort to break the backs of the cartels. My department is committing 100 new ATF personnel to the Southwest border in the next 100 days to supplement our ongoing Project Gunrunner. DEA is adding 16 new positions on the border, as well as mobile enforcement teams, and the FBI is creating a new intelligence group focusing on kidnapping and extortion."

Holder is clearly not telling the truth about his role in Gunrunner. He knew about it, boasted of it and took credit for it. Now he's orchestrating a cover-up of it. President Obama needs to man up about Gunrunner and either take responsibility for this tragedy or admit, under oath if need be, that even he didn't know what was in the stimulus bill.

During an interview with a Univision reporter that aired in March, Obama said he was "absolutely not" informed about the ATF program that deliberately funneled guns into Mexico. "I did not authorize it," he said. "Eric Holder, the attorney general, did not authorize it. He's been very clear that our policy is to catch gunrunners and put them into jail."

-- Investor's Business Daily editorial July 8, 2011

What gun control gets you, Jersey style

Small restaurants in the city of Newark, New Jersey will be required to have an armed security guard at night.

The rule comes in the wake of a drive-by shooting where an off-duty Newark police officer was killed.

Under the ordinance restaurants that serve 15 or fewer people must hire an armed guard after 9 p.m. or must close by 10 p.m.

"These restaurants who serve 15 or less people, walk-in eateries where you get your food and you leave, they are havens for criminal activity," said Keith Hamilton, an aide to Councilman Ras Baraka.

Jamil Nahiam, owner of the restaurant where the shooting occurred, said it places an expensive and unfair burden on small business owners to do something that should be the responsibility of the police.

"The ordinance is going to put us out of business," Nahiam said. -- "U.S. city requires armed guards at some restaurants," Reuters, July 8, 2011

Ed.: if Jersey politicians permitted citizens to exercise their "right to keep and bear arms" might not Newark's crime rate fall, as indicated by the findings in John Lott's *More Guns, Less Crime*?

Who needs a gun at Buffalo Wild Wings?

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Three people were robbed at gunpoint early Friday morning as they left the southwest side restaurant where they work.

The robbery happened shortly after 1:30 a.m. at the Buffalo Wild Wings on Georgesville Road, 10TV News reported.

Three employees were leaving the restaurant when a man with a gun forced them back inside and stole money.

The man smashed the employees' cell phones before fleeing. None of them were injured.

-- <http://www.10tv.com> July 9, 2011

Update on UN Arms Treaty

FINAL REPORT on the Third Preparatory Committee (Prep Comm) meeting for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that ended on July 15, 2011.

By Julianne Versnel, Second Amendment Foundation Director of Operations

This meeting had over 375 requests for registrations by NGOs and other interested parties. This was not an open meeting and specific permission had to be received so that registration could even be made.

The First and Second Prep Comms meetings had had about 100 and 125 NGOs in attendance respectively. This conference is about firearms and ammunition. Just as this is an emotional issue that elicits strong feelings from Americans, so it is in the rest of the world.

The great majority of those attending were from organizations that deal almost exclusively with small arms. On July 14, 2011, Control Arms, a Survivors' Declaration and IANSA spoke and were followed by remarks by the National Rifle Association, World Forum for the Future of Sports Shooting Activities and Defense Small Arms Advisory Committee. There was no presentation that discussed any part of the scope of the treaty beyond firearms and ammunition.

The fourth and final Prep Comm is to take place in mid February 2012. While this has been described as a technical conference, there is little likelihood that there will actually be further discussion for expanding the scope and reach of the ATT to be presented the following July.

The Second Amendment Foundation remains vigilant in covering the progress of the upcoming United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. -- Excerpts from SAF press release July 15, 2011

Beware: Federal Gun Free School Zone Act

CHEYENNE — A traveler driving along Interstate 25 at Cheyenne will come within 1,000 feet of Jessup Elementary School.

If that driver is carrying a weapon in the vehicle without a concealed weapon permit, he or she is in violation of a little-known federal law.

The Federal Gun Free School Zone Act of 1995 makes it a crime to possess a functional firearm on public property, such as sidewalks, roads, highways, parks or fairgrounds within 1,000 feet of the property line of any elementary, middle or high school.

The penalty for violations is up to five years in federal prison and the permanent loss of the offender's right to own a firearm.

The National Coalition for Amending the Federal Gun Free School Zone Act of 1995 is alerting Wyoming residents to the existence of the federal ban, given that the state's new law allowing residents to carry handguns without permits is in effect.

"Anyone who carries in a populated area without a Wyoming permit is unavoidably committing multiple federal felonies," said Grant Chapman of Oklahoma.

Chapman is working with the coalition and other gun rights organizations, including the Western Wyoming Riflemen's Association based in Afton, to get the federal law changed

-- Star-Tribune July 11, 2011

Corps of Engineers: no guns allowed

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) plans to offer an amendment this week protecting gun rights on land controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Currently, guns are prohibited on Corps land, even when gun possession is otherwise allowed by state law.

The Gosar amendment, modeled after the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act (H.R. 1865) introduced by pro-gun Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH), is similar to a 2009 law repealing the gun ban on National Park Service land.

The Corps said, in a statement: "Public Law 111-024 does not apply to Corps projects or facilities . . . [and the Army Corps] will continue to prohibit loaded concealed weapons on Corps properties regardless of the new law and notwithstanding any contrary provisions of state law."

"The Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act seeks to restore Second Amendment rights to law-abiding citizens while they are legally camping, hunting, and fishing on the 11.7 million acres of Army Corps recreational property," Rep. Gibbs said.

Nationally, the Army Corps of Engineers controls 400 lake and river projects, 90,000 campsites and 4,000 miles of trails.

-- Gun Owners of America, 13 July 2011

Paranoia growing about U.S. "right wing extremists"

Right-wing extremist activity increased in 2008 and 2009 and has stayed persistent in 2010 and 2011, says former DHS domestic terror analyst Daryl Johnson, who founded a consulting firm that tracks extremist activity. He produced the 2009 report that created a political firestorm after it warned of a surge in right-wing extremism due to the election of the country's first black president and the economic recession

Johnson says extremists have been active, with several shootings in the past several months. He says the militia movement "exploded" over the last two years and that groups have been "stockpiling weapons and plotting to kill government officials in Michigan and Alaska."

"A Norway incident could definitely happen here; the same things that played into the Norway suspect's mindset are here in this country," Johnson said. "If anything, extremists are much more capable of committing violent acts here due to their access to

weapons and ammunition, which they don't have in Europe."

Johnson claims that DHS has devoted fewer resources to tracking such activity. Since he left DHS last year, he says his unit, which focused on domestic terrorism, has been reduced in size from at least seven people to a single inexperienced analyst and a lone contractor. In comparison, there are at least 25 analysts devoted to tracking Islamic terrorism, he told HuffPost blogger Brian Levin, a criminal justice professor at Cal State San Bernardino.

Johnson, a longtime Republican, says he was shocked by the vehement reaction to his 2009 report by conservatives who complained that it was hyperbolic and politically motivated.

"Politics should never interfere with this type of analysis," he said. Johnson says that the report, which was never formally withdrawn, was due to be revised and re-released but never was. Instead, several sources say DHS is expected to release several reports narrowly focused on sovereign citizens and militias.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there were 824 militia groups in the U.S. last year, a significant increase from the 149 counted in 2008. The center noted that militants have been inspired out of concern about immigration and by fears that America's racial makeup is changing to the extent that whites are projected to be in the minority by 2050.

An increase in right-wing extremist activity has also been tracked by the Anti-Defamation League's associate director of fact finding, Marilyn Mayo.

"We've seen a lot of violent incidents in the past few years -- a rise in the activity of white supremacist groups and a tremendous growth in anti-government groups," she said. "The number of militia groups has quadrupled in the last four years, from about 50 to about 200."

Mayo, who says the ADL was disappointed that the 2009 DHS report was pulled, says the increase in extremism results from the election of President Obama and the conspiracy theories "that flow when you get a liberal

president -- that all guns will be confiscated, that FEMA is setting up concentration camps."

Much of the activity in the U.S. is inspired by fears that echo those expressed by alleged Norwegian shooter Anders Behring Breivik [who stands accused of killing 77 people].

"We've seen an increased focus on the idea that multiculturalism and diversity is destroying American-European culture," Mayo said.

Breivik was influenced by right-wing extremists in the U.S. such as Timothy McVeigh, says Devin Burghart, vice president of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, which monitors right-wing extremists. Breivik's rambling manifesto seems to have also been inspired by the "Turner Diaries," a novel set in a post-race-war United States and popular in Norwegian far-right circles, according to Burghart.

"My initial take on [Breivik's] manifesto was that it was an Islamophobe's nonfiction account of the diaries," he said.

Levin says that the two biggest threats to the United States are Islamic jihadists and right-wing extremists, but only one gets major news coverage.

Part of this reduced focus is due to the perception that right-wing extremists are less organized and incapable of pulling off a major attack, says Matthew Goodwin, a lecturer in terrorism issues at the University of Nottingham.

-- "Threat of Right-Wing Extremism in U.S. Debated by Feds, Analysts" www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/28

Guns not the number one choice of criminals

By Daniel K. Kohler

Antis love to say how guns are the number one choice of criminals. They also say that if we got rid of all the guns, crime would disappear. Hmmm let us see what the 2009 crime report says about that, shall we?

I took the Aggravated Assault, Robbery, and Homicide stats and combined them together.

There were a total of 1,066,266 reported crimes where a

weapon of some type was used.

Of that number 305,254 involved a firearm of some kind.

160,203 involved knives or other cutting instruments.

267,225 involved "other" weapons (blunt object such as a baseball bat or pipe).

333,584 involved strong arm (hands and feet when used as weapons).

That means that in 28.63% of all violent crimes a firearm of some kind was used.

Conclusion: firearms are not the leading choice of criminals. They more often use physical violence against a victim.

"The art of Liberalism is the ability to ignore the facts with emotion."

Bohemian Grove: Where the rich and powerful go to misbehave

Every July, some of the richest and most powerful men in the world gather at a 2,700 acre campground in Monte Rio, Calif., for two weeks of heavy drinking, super-secret talks, druid worship (the group insists they are simply "revering the Redwoods"), and other rituals.

Their purpose: to escape the "frontier culture," or uncivilized interests, of common men.

The club is hush-hush, so much of what we know is from infiltrators, including Texas-based filmmaker Alex Jones. In 2000, Jones was able to film Cremation of the Care, a ceremony in which members wear costumes and cremate a coffin effigy called "Care" before a 40-foot-owl, in deference to the surrounding Redwood trees.

Bohemian Grove's 2011 retreat begins in mid-July. We don't suggest any infiltrators try to make their way through the entrance. It didn't end too well for the last Vanity Fair editor who tried it. He was arrested and had to be bailed out by his wife. -- www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost, Elizabeth Flock, 2011/06/15

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